



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 26, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **Eleven Idaho public charter schools awarded grants**
- **State Board announces scholarship deadlines for seniors**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
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ELEVEN PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS AWARDED GRANTS ([GO TO TOP](#))

Eleven Idaho public charter schools will receive funding from the \$3.4 million Charter School Program grant the U.S. Department of Education awarded Idaho earlier this year.

In August, the U.S. Department of Education announced Idaho was one of only five states to receive the Charter School Program grant over the next three years. The Charter School Program grant offers support to new public charter schools during their first years of planning and operation. Idaho's grant amount totals \$3,386,402 for the first two years, and the Gem State could receive up to \$2.7 million more in funding for the third year, depending on Congressional appropriations.

"I am excited about the possibilities this grant provides for Idaho to expand school choice in public education," said Superintendent Luna. "We are now seeing a new generation of public charter schools crop up in Idaho to target underserved populations of students, such as those with learning disabilities or English as a second language, and we must support those efforts to meet the needs of all students."

Public charter schools can receive funding through the Charter School Program grant for up to three years. Grant funding is awarded through a competitive application process. Charter schools can use this funding to help with planning and operational costs, including public awareness, facilities, curriculum development, textbooks, curricular materials, and professional development for teachers.

Of the 11 public charter schools awarded grants this year, three schools are in the planning phase and scheduled to open in Fall 2009: Idaho Science and Technology Charter School, Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning and the Southern Idaho Learning Center. A full list of the public charter schools awarded grants this year is attached.



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In addition to the 11 schools awarded grants for planning and implementation, three high-performing public charter schools received \$100,000 dissemination grants. With this funding, Idaho Arts Charter School in Nampa, Compass Public Charter School in Meridian and INSPIRE Virtual Charter School in Boise will be able to share their successful learning programs with other traditional or charter schools across the state of Idaho and train school personnel on how to implement these programs.

Idaho currently has 31 charter schools that serve 11,000 students across the state. Six new public charter schools are scheduled to open in Fall 2009, and more than a dozen additional groups have filed petitions to start public charter schools in Idaho in the coming years.

Planning and Implementation Grants:

The Planning and Implementation grants have been awarded to 11 Idaho public charter schools this year, as part of the Charter School Program grant, to provide funding for charter schools during the first years of planning and operation. Charter schools can use this funding to help with planning and operational costs, including public awareness, facilities, curriculum development, textbooks, curricular materials, and professional development for teachers.

<u>School</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Academy at Roosevelt Center	Pocatello	\$175,000
ARTEC Charter School	Twin Falls	\$200,000
Garden City Community School	Garden City	\$233,374
iSucceed Virtual High School	Boise	\$233,000
Idaho Science and Technology Charter School (opens Fall 2009)	Blackfoot	\$200,000
North Valley Academy	Gooding	\$232,860
Palouse Prairie School of Expeditionary Learning (opens Fall 2009)	Moscow	\$200,000
Southern Idaho Learning Center (opens Fall 2009)	Twin Falls	\$200,000
Taylor's Crossing Public Charter School	Idaho Falls	\$233,000
Vision Charter School	Caldwell	\$233,000
Xavier Charter School	Twin Falls	\$233,000

Dissemination Grants:

The Dissemination Grants have been awarded to three Idaho public charter schools this year, as part of the Charter School Program grant, to give these schools an opportunity to share their successful learning programs with other traditional or charter schools across the state of Idaho and train school personnel on how to implement these programs.

<u>School</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>
Idaho Arts Charter School	Nampa	\$100,000
INSPIRE Virtual Charter School	Boise	\$100,000
Compass Public Charter School	Meridian	\$100,000

To learn more about public charter schools or the Charter School Program grant, please visit the State Department of Education's charter school web site at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/charter_schools/.

STATE BOARD ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES FOR SENIORS (GO TO TOP)



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The Idaho State Board of Education Student Affairs office would like to notify current high school seniors that the window to complete online scholarship applications is now open.

“It’s imperative that students do their work now in order to be eligible for funds later,” said Dana Kelly, Program Manager for the Idaho State Board of Education. “Especially in these lean economic times, students and their families need all the help they can get. This is the first step.”

High school seniors need to log on to the Board’s web site at www.boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarships and follow the links provided. The deadline for completion of the online application is **January 15, 2009**.

The State of Idaho, through the Office of the State Board of Education, provides an online application to high school seniors for the following scholarship opportunities including:

- Governor’s Cup Scholarship Academic
- Governor’s Cup Scholarship Professional-Technical
- Robert R. Lee Promise “A” Academic
- Robert R. Lee Promise A” Professional-Technical
- Robert C. Byrd Scholarship
- Tschudy Family Scholarship (Emmett High School graduates only)

To learn more about each scholarship, including eligibility requirements and deadlines, please visit the Board’s website at www.boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarships . You may contact either Dana Kelly at 208.332.1574, dana.kelly@osbe.idaho.gov or Jessica Piper at 208.332.1573, jessica.piper@osbe.idaho.gov if you need further assistance.

SUPERINTENDENT’S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- State Department of Education offices will be closed November 28, 2008, the Friday after Thanksgiving.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Milken Educator of the Year and Teacher of the Year Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, December 1 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Associated Taxpayers of Idaho Annual Conference on Wednesday, December 3 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Idaho State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, December 4 and Friday, December 5 at College of Western Idaho in Nampa.

WHAT’S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Register now for December School Improvement Webinar** -- The Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools Webinar scheduled for December 18, 2008 will focus on the Characteristic of High Levels of Collaboration and Communication, including information on powerful procedures to be used by individuals and collaboration teams in dealing with issues of content and process. Information and strategies presented can be applied to any kind of collaboration situation, including but not limited to the work of data, intervention, grade level, professional development and content area teams. Rosie Santana and Steve Underwood will present the webinar at 10 a.m. and



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repeat it at 3 p.m. To register, please visit www.idahodigitallearning.org, select the "Idaho Live" tab and click "Register for Webinar." Please contact Lisa Kinnaman or Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 with any questions.

- **SDE web site maintenance** -- The State Department of Education will be performing routine maintenance on its web serves and database servers that the web site accesses on Friday, November 28, 2008. As a result, the SDE web site and databases available through the web site will not be accessible on this day. Please note that Unique Student ID and the TechTalk forum will not be affected by this maintenance.
- **Additional Migrant Funding applications** -- Applications are being accepted for Additional Migrant Funds. Please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/migrant_edu/reports_documents.htm to download an application and supporting documents. The deadline to submit applications is **December 12, 2008 at 5 p.m.** If you have questions, contact Mary Lou Lopez, Migrant Education Coordinator, at (208)332-6958 or mllopez@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Design competition for high school students** -- The Youth Summer Design Forum at Ball State University is sponsoring their first Design Competition for all high school students. This competition focuses on the design of a retail space for Banana Republic. The goal is that this competition provides high school students initial exposure to interior design and its components. This project is similar to studio projects used in classes at Ball State University and can serve as an excellent portfolio piece to students planning on pursuing an education in design fields. To learn more, visit www.bsu.edu/designforum or call (765) 285-1471.
- **American Indian Scholarship** -- The Frances Crawford Marvin American Indian Scholarship is awarded once a year to one student. A candidate for this scholarship must be enrolled full-time at a two-year or four-year college/university and must be Native American. Proof of American Indian blood is required by letter or proof papers. Students must demonstrate financial need, academic achievement, and have a 3.0 GPA or higher. The deadline to apply is **February 1, 2009**.
- **Teachers of Critical Languages Program** -- American Councils for International Education, which administers the Teachers of Critical Languages Program through the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, has announced that applications to host an exchange teacher in the 2009-2010 school year are available for download at www.tclprogram.org. Applications are welcomed from all K-12 schools in the United States, including secondary and elementary, public or private, and those with critical foreign language programs and those developing them. In all cases, TCLP provides a range of benefits to enable schools to implement their visions for their foreign language programs.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS? (GO TO TOP)

This week's highlight is on... Caldwell School District

The Caldwell School District is committed to offering healthier choices to students at lunchtime. Fruit and salad bars with low-fat dressing are offered every day. Meals are only baked, not fried, and bread, tortillas and cookies are made from whole wheat. All soda machines have been removed - swapped out for milk, yogurt and 100-calorie snack packs in machines. The Caldwell School District also is supporting staff to live healthier



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lifestyles. The district offered a health fair this fall to all employees that included a blood draw and personal health analysis, a fun run and classes on healthy eating and proper exercise.

"What's Happening in Our Schools?" is a feature that appears in each edition of the Weekly E-Newsletter. It is an opportunity for us to share the great things that are happening in Idaho's public schools on a statewide level. If you have something great happening in your school, please e-mail it to Melissa McGrath at MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov with "What's Happening in Our Schools" in the subject line.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Teacher mentoring course** -- Northwest Nazarene University is offering a new course titled "Mentioning New Teachers." Starting in January, the course will be a three-month online mentioning class designed to support new teachers by providing an opportunity for professional growth. For more information, please call (208) 467-8439 or 800-349-6938, or visit www.nnu.edu/continuinigstudied.
- **Winter EduFest** -- Winter EduFest, the conference on gifted and talented education, will be held February 26-28, 2009 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene. The conference is titled "Keys to Open Potential and Passion." For more information, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted_talented/announcements.htm.
- **Donations for Homeless Education Programs** -- In an effort to aid homeless education programs in a particularly difficult economy, the State Department of Education is beginning an ongoing project to distribute hotel toiletries collected by Department staff while traveling on business. If your school or district has a need, and you are interested in receiving these toiletries, please contact Camille Wells at CWells@sde.idaho.gov. Requests will be filled in the order they are received. If you have any other questions or concerns about homeless education in Idaho, please feel free to contact Karen Seay at the Department at (208) 332-6978 or KJSeay@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Free youth suicide prevention training** -- Idaho State University is sponsoring free youth suicide prevention trainings. The training session includes warning signs of mental illness in youth, risk and protective factors for suicide and practical information on how to talk to youth who are at risk. Seating is limited, so register early. For more information, contact Marsha Tracy at preventsuicide@isu.edu or (208) 373.1799. The trainings will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates:
 - January 22, 2009 in Garden City
 - February 3, 2009 in Twin Falls
 - March 3, 2009 in Sandpoint
 - April 8, 2009 in Idaho Falls
- **We Are Family Conference** -- The 2009 We Are Family Conference for Idahoans with disabilities and their families will be held January 13-16, 2009 in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Idaho State Independent Living Council, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. For more information, please visit <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school



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or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil. Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil.

- **Early Years 2008 conference** – The Early Years 2008 conference will be held November 18-19, 2008 at Boise State University for parents and early childhood professionals from an array of disciplines. The conference will highlight the many interrelated aspects of growth that impact a child's development. For more information or to register, please visit www.idahochild.org.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Nov. 28, 2008** – The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit www.firstfreedom.org. Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the 2008 Outstanding Teacher of the Humanities Award. The Idaho Humanities Council will honor one elementary and one secondary teacher of the humanities. For more information, please visit www.idahohumanities.org and click on the "News" link.
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to complete Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 and Subpart 1 Surveys. Please visit the following web sites to access the surveys:
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/StateSurvey.asp>
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/LocalSurvey.asp>
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to submit entries for the Idaho section of the American Nuclear Society and Idaho National Laboratory's 2008 Southeastern Idaho High School Essay Contest, which is open to students in 9-12 grades. The essay topic is to discuss nuclear energy and its implications for lowering atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions that have been linked to global climate change. For more information, please visit http://local.ans.org/Idaho/ans/News/Entries/2008/12/1_Idaho_ANS_Essay_Contest.html.
- **Dec. 4, 2008** -- The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. You can mail applications to:

State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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- **Dec. 5, 2008** -- The deadline to submit a letter of intent to apply for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant. Letters must be submitted to Matt McCarter, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinator, at 4 p.m. (MST). If you have questions, please call (208) 332-6960.
- **Dec. 5, 2008** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award, which will be given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals. Please visit <http://www.famlit.org/toyotateacher> for nomination guidelines.
- **Dec. 8, 2008** -- The deadline for school to apply for the National School or District of Character award by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). The purpose of the award is to honor these exemplars and facilitate their leadership in the field of character education. Visit www.character.org/nsoc for more information.
- **Dec. 12, 2008** -- The deadline to register for the National Geographic Bee. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. For complete information on the Bee, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee.
- **Dec. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants. Teachers who are new to the profession, their grade level or school district are eligible to apply. See www.nwpe.org for an application.
- **Jan. 12, 2009** -- The deadline to enroll in Northwest Nazarene University's 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games graduate course. The course, titled ED550 Education to Make a Difference, is designed so that educators will learn to teach a series of concise and engaging K-12 lessons about valuing diversity through involvement with the Special Olympics. To register, please visit <https://www.nnu.edu/cereg>. If you have questions, please e-mail Mary Gervase at marymgervase@yahoo.com.
- **Jan. 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. Visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm to learn more or to apply online.
- **Jan. 20, 2008** -- The deadline for students to enter the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. For more information, please visit www.studentcam.org. If you have any questions, e-mail emartin@c-span.org or call (800) 523-7586.
- **Jan. 23, 2009** -- The deadline for students to enter the Reconnecting the Circle's National High School Essay Contest. This year's essay question asks, "Why is it important to understand patriotism in Indian Country?" and prompts students to research Native American patriots, as well as explore their own American communities. All high-school aged students (grades 9-12) from tribal, BIE, public, private, and parochial schools from all 50 states are invited to participate. To learn more, visit <http://www.reconnectingthecircle.com>.



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- **Jan. 30, 2009** – The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit an application for 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants. Letters must be submitted to Matt McCarter, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinator, at 4 p.m. (MST). If you have questions, please call (208) 332-6960.
- **Feb. 9, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation's Christopher Columbus Awards program. The awards program is a national, community-based science and technology program for 6th-8th grade students. It challenges students to work in teams of three or four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. For more information, please visit www.christophercolumbusawards.com.
- **March 12, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Horace Mann Scholarship Program for Educators, which offers scholarships for educators in public and private schools to take college courses. Please visit <https://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx> for more information.
- **March 15, 2009** -- The deadline for students to enter the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge. Middle school student teams from across the country will be challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities. Visit <http://www.wecanchange.com> to learn more.